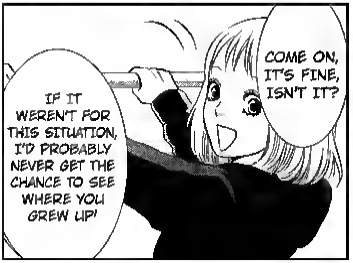
CHAPTER 18
CIRCUMSTANCES AND RESOLUTION

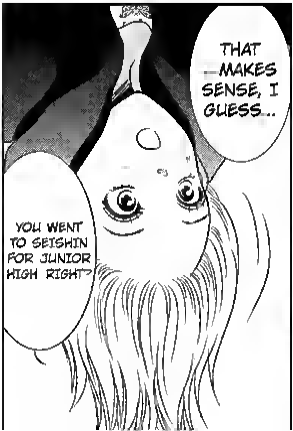
BAMBI and DHOLE
バンビとドール

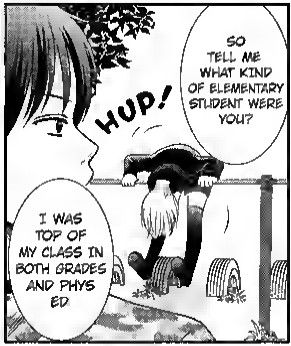
A DATE ...?
WHERE WOULD WE GO?
ER... I DIDN'T REALLY THINK THAT FAR.
HUH? BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME OUT.
WHAAAT?
AH, WELL, I MEAN, SINCE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY I THOUGHT WHY NOT GO SIGHTSEEING OR SOMETHING
OHH, SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT.
AH!
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S A PLACE I WANTED TO SEE, SO TAKE ME THERE!

WHY'D YOU WANT TO COME HERE?
YOU'RE SO WEIRD.

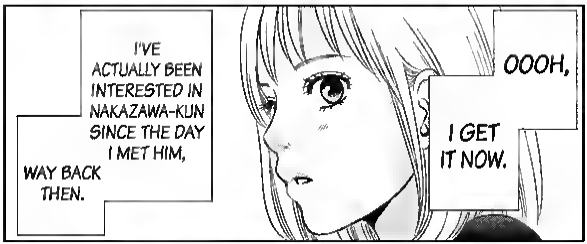
WOW!
SO THIS IS THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOU WENT TO!


COME ON, IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS SITUATION, I'D PROBABLY NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO SEE WHERE YOU GREW UP!


THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS...
YOU WENT TO SEISHIN FOR JUNIOR HIGH RIGHT?


SO TELL ME WHAT KIND OF ELEMENTARY STUDENT WERE YOU?
HUP!
I WAS TOP OF MY CLASS IN BOTH GRADES AND PHYS ED

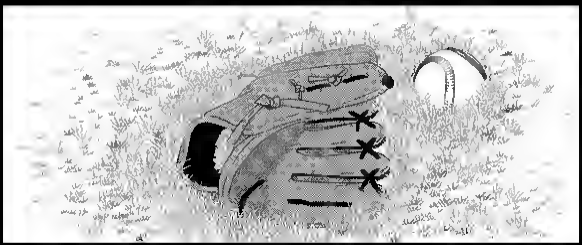
NOPE.
I HEARD FROM SENSEI THE DAY YOU TRANSFERRED IN...
WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
DID GRANNY TELL YOU?


I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN INTERESTED IN NAKAZAWA-KUN SINCE THE DAY I MET HIM, WAY BACK THEN.
OOOH, I GET IT NOW.

WHAT KIND OF GAMES DID YOU PLAY?

SO YOU PLAYED TOGETHER WITH SACHI-SAN BACK THEN?
...YEAH.

TETSU UUUUUU!
BASE-BALL?
LET ME PLAY!
AAARGH! IT'S SACHI!
HERE COMES THE HIT AND RUN GIRL AGAIN
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO HOME MY PARENTS ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING BACK THERE
COME ON, LEMME HIT IT OUTTA THE PARK!
DON'T ACT ALL PROUD JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN HIT A PITCH THROWN BY A KID.
AL-RIIIGHT! BRING IT ON!



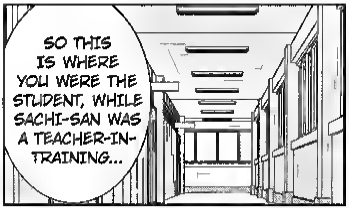
THANK YOU, TETSU!
AAAAH! THAT FELT GOOD!

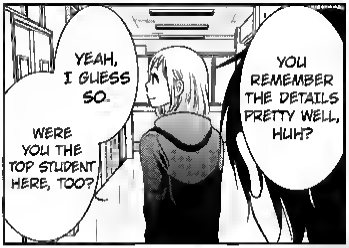
KIDS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

IF YOU HATE IT THAT MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL THEM TO STOP FIGHTING?

SEEMS LIKE YOUR PARENTS'VE GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME...
THEY SHOULD JUST COME PLAY BASEBALL TOGETHER WITH US.
...HA HA! YOU'RE SO RIGHT!
SHE WAS ALWAYS TREATING US LIKE KIDS.
BUT SACHI ACTED LIKE A KID TOO.
ALWAYS LAUGHING WITH TEARY EYES. LIKE A CHILD.

HMMM... I GUESS SO.
BUT YOU ALREADY LOVED HER BACK THEN, RIGHT?
WHY'S IT WEIRD?
WOULD A NORMAL PERSON ASK THESE KINDS OF THINGS?
YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRD GIRL.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
...SO PRETENTIOUS.
ANYWAY, LET'S GO TO YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL NEXT!
DO YOU ENJOY ASKING ABOUT THE EX-GIRLFRIEND OF THE GUY YOU LIKE?


SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE THE STUDENT, WHILE SACHI-SAN WAS A TEACHER-IN-TRAINING...

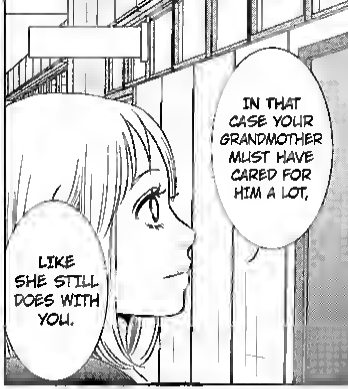

YOU REMEMBER THE DETAILS PRETTY WELL, HUH?
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
WERE YOU THE TOP STUDENT HERE, TOO?

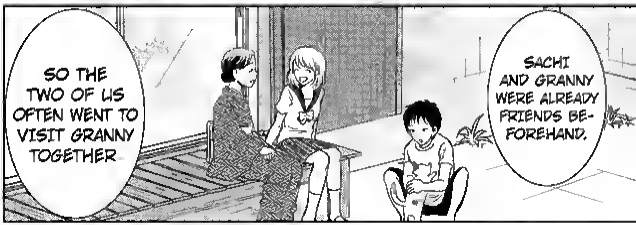
WRONG! I'M LIKE MY MOM.
AND GRANNY'S FROM MY MOM'S SIDE.
YOU AND YOUR FATHER SOUND QUITE ALIKE!

YEAH.
MY PARENTS WERE SUPER STRICT AND ALL...
THEY WOULD HAVE MADE ME QUIT KARATE INSTANTLY IF MY GRADES HAD FALLEN, SO I WORKED MY ASS OFF.

THIS MY FIRST TIME HEARING
ABOUT HIS PARENTS.
DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT VISITING YOUR PARENTS?
WELL, I'VE BEEN DISINHERITED, SO.
WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER DO?
HE'S A COLLEGE PROFESSOR.
WHAT?! REALLY?!
SO YOU'RE LIKE UPPER-CRUST...
ANYWAY THEY'VE GOT MY BROTHER, SO THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME.
SURPRISES GALORE
YOU HAVE A BROTHER?!
YEP.
HE AND I LOOK PRETTY MUCH ALIKE, TOO.

YEAH.
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO HER.


IN THAT CASE YOUR GRANDMOTHER MUST HAVE CARED FOR HIM A LOT,
LIKE SHE STILL DOES WITH YOU.


SACHI AND GRANNY WERE ALREADY FRIENDS BEFOREHAND.
SO THE TWO OF US OFTEN WENT TO VISIT GRANNY TOGETHER

WHEN SACHI GAVE BIRTH TO RAICHI IN SPITE OF HER PARENTS' OPPOSITION,
AND DIED WHILE LEAVING HIM IN MY CARE, GRANNY IMMEDIATELY CAME TO PICK US UP
WITH THE HELP OF HER NETWORK OF TEA CEREMONY FRIENDS, SHE BROUGHT US TO KANTO AND STARTED OVER FROM SCRATCH

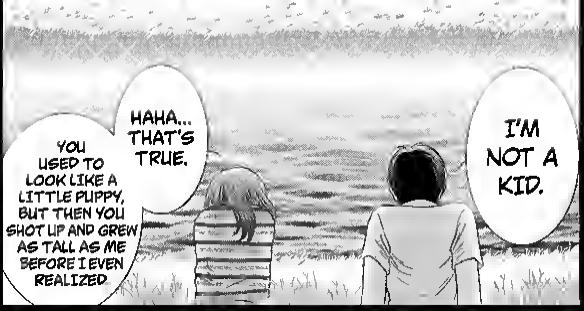
HER GRANDSON, A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT, SUDDENLY BROUGHT BACK A GREAT-GRANDCHILD...
AND WITHOUT KNOWING WHETHER HE TRULY IS HER GREAT-GRANDCHILD OR NOT, SHE'S BEEN LOVING AND TAKING CARE OF RAICHI EVERYDAY.
SHE'S AN AMAZING PERSON, ISN'T SHE?
SHE TRULY IS.
YEAH...
YOU'RE A THREE-GENERATION FAMILY AND YOU ALL LOOK SO ALIKE.
I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT...
IT'S NOT FUNNY, WE EVEN HAVE THE SAME FACE.

I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
BUT I WONDER WHICH ONE I RESEMBLE MORE.
HMM ...LET'S SEE...
PRETTY AS YOU ARE, IT'S UNLIKELY TO BE YOUR DAD, I GUESS?
P-PRETTY ?!
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU ARE UGLY, RIGHT?

EH? I DID? NO WAY.
YOU DID!
...YOU CALLED ME UGLY FOREHEAD BEFORE, YOU KNOW.
SACHI OFTEN
CAME HERE TO CRY.

THAT'S SO SAD...
EVEN THOUGH SACHI'S PARENTS SEEM TO GET ALONG JUST FINE NOW, IN THE PAST THEY USED TO FIGHT ALL THE TIME.
SHE'D COME HERE OFTEN SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR HER THERE.
"THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME IN MY HOUSE."

THUMP
ARE YOU CRYING AGAIN?
...NO.
KIDS SHOULD HURRY AND GO BACK HOME.

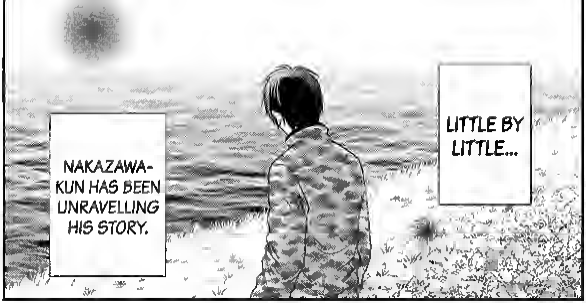

I'M NOT A KID.
HAHA... THAT'S TRUE.
YOU USED TO LOOK LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY, BUT THEN YOU SHOT UP AND GREW AS TALL AS ME BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED.

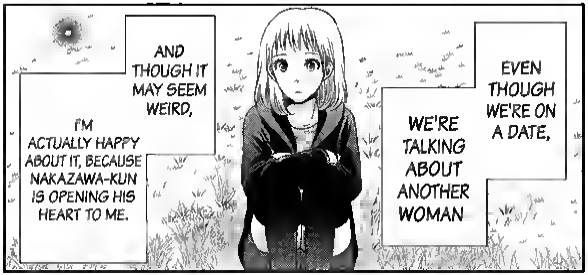
...WHY DON'T YOU HEAD TO YOUR BOYFRIEND'S PLACE AT TIMES LIKE THESE?
UGH, NO WAY! THAT GUY WAS SO UNRELI-ABLE!
WE BROKE UP ALREADY!
HOW MANY DOES THAT MAKE?

DUNNO.
IN THE END, MAYBE ANY-ONE WILL DO, FOR ME.

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING ?!
OH! WAS THAT YOUR FIRST?
OF COURSE IT WAS!
I'M GLAD!
ABOUT WHAT?!
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY, BUT I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE ALL OF TETSU'S FIRSTS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS

SAVE THAT KIND OF TALK FOR YOUR BOY-FRIENDS, IT'S GROSS.
IT MEANS, YOU KNOW,
THAT YOU'RE SPECIAL
WHACK
OW!
BEEHHH
DON'T BE A CHEEKY BRAT! STUPID TETSU!


NAKAZAWA-KUN HAS BEEN UNRAVELLING HIS STORY.
LITTLE BY LITTLE...


AND THOUGH IT MAY SEEM WEIRD,
I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, BECAUSE NAKAZAWA-KUN IS OPENING HIS HEART TO ME.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ON A DATE,
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN

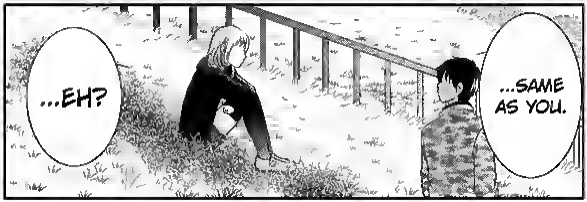
BUT THEN, WHEN SHE WAS 22, I LEARNT ABOUT HER ILLNESS.
ANYWAY, IN THE END, SHE KEPT GETTING CLOSE WITH GUYS, THEN LEAVING THEM.

BUT LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I THINK SHE JUST WANTED TO LIVE HER LIFE TO THE FULLEST.
SHE KNEW THAT SHE HAD A WEAK HEART, BUT SHE'D STILL PLAY BASEBALL WITH ME, RUN AROUND EVERY-WHERE, AND DO A BUNCH OF CRAZY THINGS.
SHE'D BEEN HIDING IT FROM ME THE WHOLE TIME.

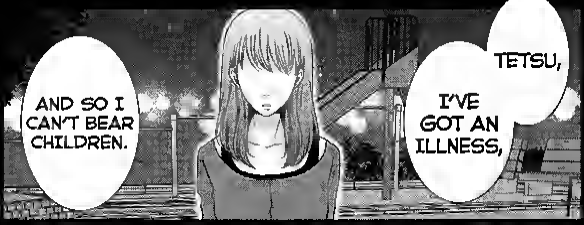
I WANT TO PRIORITIZE RAICHI'S HAPPINESS.

CAN I ASK SOMETHING?
SURE.
NAKAZAWA-KUN...?

SO...
HOW DID YOU...
GET INTO THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP?


...SAME AS YOU.
...EH?

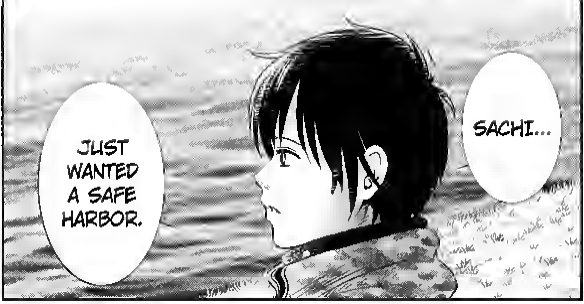
EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE AN UNPLEASANT MEMORY TO YOU NOW,
I THINK IT WAS SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU FELT WHEN YOU DID IT WITH YOUR UPPERCLASSMAN BOYFRIEND.

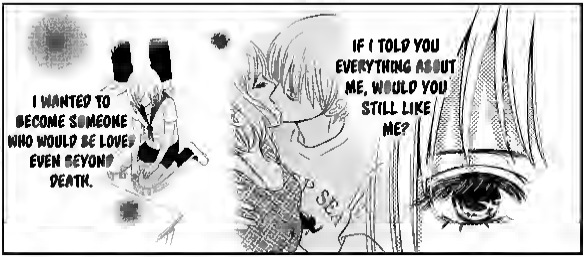

TETSU,
I'VE GOT AN ILLNESS,
AND SO I CAN'T BEAR CHILDREN.

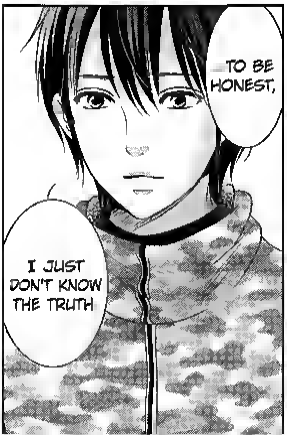
AND WHEN I TOLD MY BOYFRIEND THAT,
HE LEFT ME...

...THAT BASTARD!

THANK YOU...
THANK YOU...
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
TETSU ...

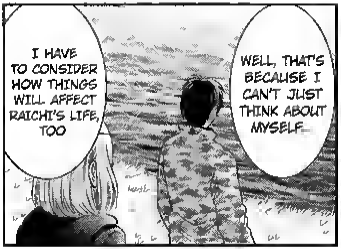

SACHI...
JUST WANTED A SAFE HARBOR.

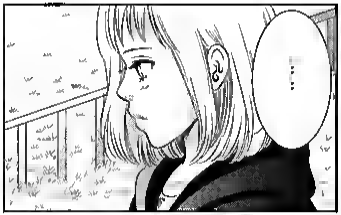

I WANTED TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE LOVED EVEN BEYOND DEATH.
IF I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, WOULD YOU STILL LIKE ME?


TO BE HONEST,
I JUST DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH

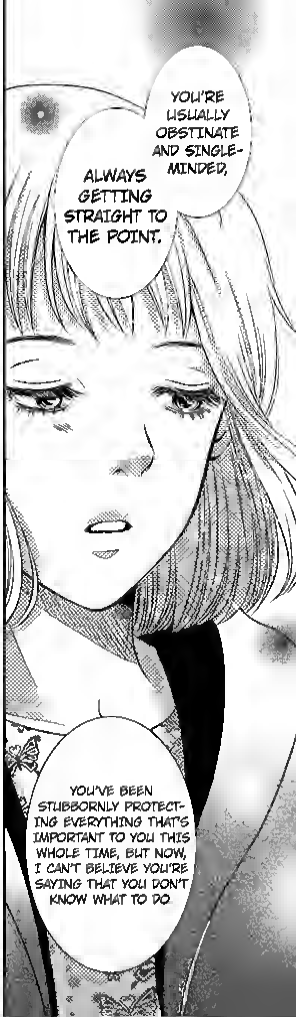
LAST NIGHT...
YOU SAID THAT YOU AND RAICHI DIDN'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL..

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S MY SON FROM THAT ONE NIGHT,
OR IF HE'S ONE OF THE PREVIOUS GUYS'.
NAKAZAWA-KUN
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY.
GOING TO ENTRUST RAICHI-KUN TO SACHI-SAN'S PARENTS?
I DON'T KNOW...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO HERE.
I FEEL LIKE...
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
HUH?


I HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW THINGS WILL AFFECT RAICHI'S LIFE, TOO
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T JUST THINK ABOUT MYSELF.


...

I'M COMING WITH YOU TODAY.
I'LL TAKE THE SHINKANSEN HOME, TOO.

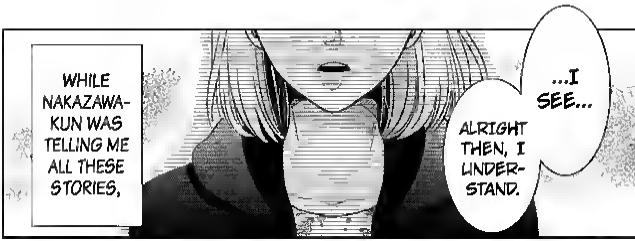

YOU'RE USUALLY OBSTINATE AND SINGLE-MINDED,
ALWAYS GETTING STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
YOU'VE BEEN STUBBORNLY PROTECTING EVERYTHING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT NOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

SERI-OUSLY ...?
OH...
SO IT'S REALLY HAPPENING.

WELL, EVEN IF SACHI'S PARENTS HAVEN'T REALLY SAID IT,
IT DOESN'T TAKE ROCKET SCIENCE TO SEE THAT SACHI AND RAICHI ARE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD.
THEY PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO LET HIM GO ANYMORE.

I'VE BEEN DRIVING MYSELF NUTS OVER THIS IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF BEING A KID AND RAISING A KID I EVEN CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND ME
BUT NOW I'VE OPENED MY EYES.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK...?


WHILE NAKAZAWA-KUN WAS TELLING ME ALL THESE STORIES,
ALRIGHT THEN, I UNDER-STAND.
...I SEE...

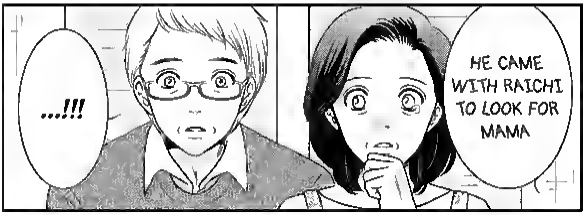
HE WAS ACTUALLY BUILDING HIS RESOLVE TO LET GO OF RAICHI-KUN.

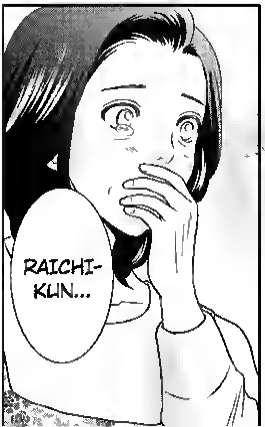
YOUR DAD SAID HE COULD NOT COME TODAY.
RAICHI-KUN,

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...
NOT COME?
HIKN

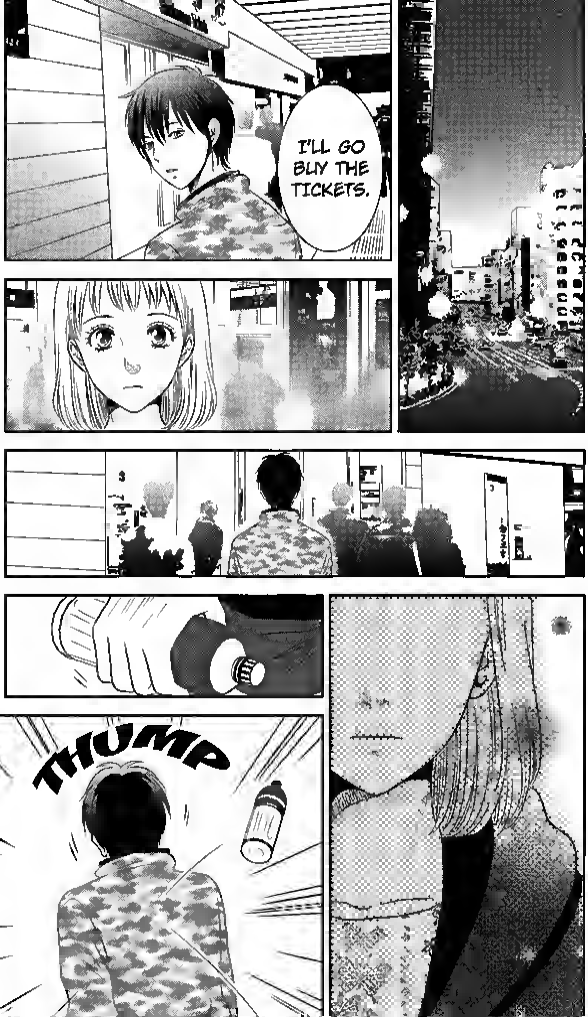
...DO YOU WANT TO STAY HERE WITH GRANDMA AND GRANDPA FOR A WHILE?
YES!
...WHAT...?
ISN'T MAMA S'POSED TO BE HERE?
HEY,
WHERE IS MAMA?

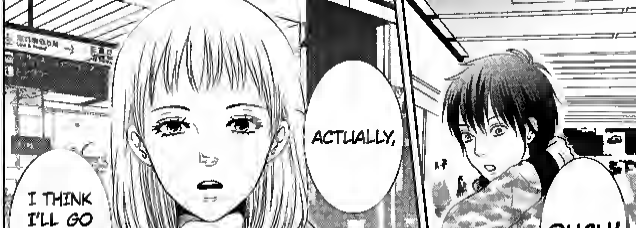
DADA HAS BEEN LOOKING
FOR MAMA THIS WHOLE TIME


HE CAME WITH RAICHI TO LOOK FOR MAMA
...!!!


RAICHI-KUN...

HE SAID IF WE FIND MAMA,
RAICHI WOULD BE ABLE TO EAT TOMATOES!


I'LL GO BUY THE TICKETS.
THUMP


I THINK I'LL GO HOME BY MYSELF.
ACTUALLY,
OUCH!

HUH...?

AT LEAST YOU WOULD BE CLOSE TO SACHI-SAN'S PARENTS AND COULD GO VISIT.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE WITH YOUR PARENTS, EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT TO GROVEL TO COME BACK?
IF IT'S THAT TOUGH FOR YOU THREE TO LIVE OVER THERE WITH YOUR GRAND-MOTHER,

...THAT WON'T WORK.
IT WOULDN'T BE IN RAICHI'S BEST INTERESTS.
IF I LEAVE NOW, HE'LL BE ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT ME SO THAT HE CAN LIVE HAPPILY IN THAT HOUSE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT "WON'T WORK"?
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN DOING CRAZY THINGS AND MAKING THEM "WORK" FROM THE START?
IT WAS YOUR DECISION TO TAKE CUSTODY OF RAICHI-KUN!

AT THIS POINT, IF YOU LET GO OF HIM THINKING IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD,
RAICHI-KUN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL!
Rocket-San
Anatomical

BUT IN RAICHI'S EYES, THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUTH
AND THAT'S THAT HIS FATHER DISAPPEARED BEFORE HIS VERY OWN EYES!

I WAS ABANDONED.
LEFT IN FRONT OF AN ORPHANAGE.
WHEN I WAS STILL JUST A BABY.

REGARDLESS OF IF YOU'RE RELATED BY BLOOD OR NOT,
AND REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER FEELINGS EXISTED BETWEEN YOU AND SACHI-SAN,
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT'LL BE, OR HOW MANY TEARS YOU SHED, IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DOING THIS PURELY FOR YOUR OWN SELF-SATISFACTION

IF YOU LEAVE RAICHI NOW,
IN 14 YEARS,
HE'LL BECOME LIKE ME.

IF WE CAN BE LET GO OF SO EASILY,
WHY BOTHER GIVING BIRTH TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SORRY, NAKAZAWA-KUN.
YUKI...

SORRY FOR BEING SO HARSH.

"IF WE CAN BE LET GO OF SO EASILY,"

"WHY BOTHER GIVING BIRTH TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE?"

CHAPTER 18 / END.

Impatient
scans
WWW FACEBOOK COM/IMPATIENTSCANS

TRANSLATOR SHARU
CLEANER PLUMJUCIE
REDRAWER EMMAVZ, GRACEEEEEI
TYPESETTER NORA, KIRARICHAN
QC PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

RIGHT IN THE KOKORO